

**TYRANNY ON WOMEN IN NAWAL EL-SAADAWI'S *THE FALL OF THE IMAM* NOVEL (1987): A MARXIST APPROACH**



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# **TYRANNY ON WOMEN IN NAWAL EL-SAADAWI'S *THE FALL OF THE IMAM* NOVEL (1987): A MARXIST APPROACH**

## **Abstrak**

*Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk mengungkap tirani pada novel *The Fall of the Imam* (1987) karya Nawal El Saadawi. Tujuan dari penelitian ini adalah untuk mendeskripsikan tirani berdasarkan Pendekatan Marxis. Penulis menggunakan penelitian kualitatif. Penulis menggunakan dua data yaitu data primer dan sekunder. Sumber data primer yaitu novel *The Fall of the Imam* (1987). Data sekunder diambil dari sumber lain yang berhubungan dengan penelitian seperti buku sastra, biografi penulis, jurnal, artikel, dan internet. Teknik pengumpulan data melalui perpustakaan. Teknik menganalisa data penelitian yaitu analisa deskriptif. Berdasarkan penelitian tersebut, peneliti dapat menyimpulkan berdasarkan pada pendekatan Marxis yaitu materialisme dialektis, sejarah materialism, perjuangan kelas, dan yang terakhir yaitu revolusi, dalam novel ini semua poin ditemukan dalam *The Fall of the Imam* (1987).*

*Kata kunci: Tirani, Wanita, Pendekatan Marxis*

## **Abstract**

This research aims to reveal tyranny in *The Fall of the Imam* (1987) novel by Nawal El Saadawi. The objective of the research is to describe tyranny based on the Marxist Approach. The writer uses qualitative research. The writer uses two data resource: primary and secondary data source. The primary data source is *The Fall of the Imam* (1987) novel. Then the secondary takes the data source that related to this research such as literary books, biography of the author, journal, article, and internet. The technique of collecting data is library research. The technique of analyzing data is descriptive analysis. Based on the research, the researcher concludes based on the Marxist Approach: Dialectical Materialism, Historical Materialism, Class Struggle, and the last one, Revolution in this novel all points found in *The Fall of the Imam* (1987).

Key word: Tyranny, Women, Marxist Approach

## **1. INTRODUCTION**

Men's oppression of women is often occurred to housewife or career women. Usually, men who oppress women are bad people. He may hurt the

physically and psychologically of woman. In the family, the oppression of a husband against a wife is a crime. In general, the oppression of women in the family is caused by some differences. Differences of opinion or it could be a difference in choosing something. This will become a debate and eventually become a dispute in the household. Because women are weak people, men with strong characters will abuse or oppress women.

Tyranny is a government that is controlled by one person and does not make the people prosperous. It means a government acts arbitrarily to the people. Tyrannical government is a government that is very detrimental to the people. The people are always oppressed for the interests of the government. Tyranny is government by a ruler or small group of people who have unlimited power over the people in their country or state and use it unfairly and cruelly (Cambridge Dictionary, 2017). The tyranny can not be kept away from the political power of a country. A country that controls the country's greatest politics will easily oppress others. The nature of tyranny is cruel. Rulers do not hesitate to oppress people for self-interest.

The examples of tyrannical figures who ever existed in the world for example, Emperor Nero, He is the fifth Roman emperor. He is a very cruel king. One of his atrocities is when he wants to build a new Rome city. He deliberately burns the city of Rome. The inhabitants believe that he deliberately burns the city of Rome and blames the Christians. Among other atrocities are when in a race arena, some of the Christians are covered with animal skins so they can not see. He orders his men to release many dogs that bite the Christians. He orders his men to look for straw and collect it to burn the Christians as entertainment for the king. Another cruelty of Emperor Nero is he kills all his wives. His first wife is killed while pregnant. The second wife is murdered for complaining to the king who is too late at night. The third wife is murdered for killing her ex-husband (Muhammad, 2015).

Novel *The Fall of The Imam* is a novel by Nawal El-Sadaawi. Published in Cairo in 1987. The English translation by the author's husband Sherif Hetata was published in 1988. This novel tells the real life of a society. Where there is a leader and people. This novel tells a leader who has a cruel behavior and oppress his people. His name is the Imam. He claimed to lead the earth as the representative of god. He oppresses and treats his people cruelly in the name of religion and god. Every decision that he takes is always based on the law of God, so that no one will be against the law decided. Time to time in his power, the Imam who has always been praised, evidently the Imam has children outside marriage. A girl named Bint Allah. She is a beautiful girl. At the beginning of the story this girl is looking for a father, because when born, this girl's mother has no father and the mother is considered an adulteress woman. From this curiosity, Bint Allah seeks his father, until she slowly learned that the Imam was his father. The Imam died tragically by his own daughter during a celebration of independence. (Womack, 2009)

One of the Imam oppression the Imam considered a woman like a buffalo. The price of a woman is not cheaper than a buffalo. It means that buffalo price is more expensive than the price of a woman. "The price of a buffalo is more than that of a woman, I said, and a man will have only one buffalo and yet will marry four wives". (Saadawi's *The Fall of The Imam*, p.124 - 125)

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the story this girl is looking for a father, because when born, this girl's mother has no father and the mother is considered an adulteress woman. From this curiosity, Bint Allah seeks his father, until she slowly know that the Imam is his father.

The writer will analyze the novel *The Fall of The Imam*, because the novel is very interesting and good story. The characters in this novel really reflect the life around us. The women are always oppressed and men always oppress women in various ways. For example, domestic violence, women always become victims of crime, rape, sexual harassment. The characterfistic of Imam is familiar. From the conflict, this story is very interesting, because the conflict is about a woman named Bint Allah . She struggles to find her father. The story tells the oppression of a man who oppresses a woman. Many events that describe the imam's oppression in this story. There is more interesting thing in this novel in terms of themes, plot, point of view, problem solving in this story. The terms of language in this novel is very good in the selection of words, so readers will be interested and go deeper into this story.

Based on the points above, the researcher will anayze the Nawal El-Saadawi's novel entitle *The Fall of The Imam*. The researcher will analyze the novel by using marxist approach. This approach uses to analyze and revolves this issue of Tyranny. Therefore, the reseacher arranges the title of the research paper as **TYRANNY ON WOMEN IN NAWAL EL-SAADAWI'S THE FALL OF THE IMAM NOVEL (1987) : A MARXIST APPROACH.**

## **2. RESEARCH METHOD**

In this research, the researcher uses qualitative research. It is library research while data sources are using literary data. It purposes to analyze novel using marxist approach. The writer uses qualitative research. The writer uses two data resource: primary and secondary data source. The primary data source is *The Fall of the Imam* (1987) novel. Then the secondary takes the data source that



related with this research such as literary books, biography of the author, journal, article that related with the novel and from internet that related to the study. The technique of collection data is library research. The technique of collecting data as follows: a) Reading the novel *The Fall of the Imam* by Nawal El-Sadaawi; b) Browsing to internet about previous research novel *The Fall of the Imam* by Nawal El-Sadaawi; c) Identifying the problem and finding the data so that the problem statement and objective of the study in this research can be drawn clearly; d) Taking important notes about the primary and secondary data; e) Making notes of important parts in both primary data and secondary data; f) Reading author biography. The steps of technique of data analysis are compiled as follows: a) Collecting the data from the novel *The Fall of the Imam* that related with theory; b) After the data was collected, input the data into theory that suitable; c) Discussing the data with the theory; d) Giving understanding about the data after discussing; e) After that make conclusion.

### **3. FINDING AND DISCUSSION**

The researcher finds some findings. They are the five principles of Karl Marx's conception.

#### **3.1 Dialectical materialism**

Dialectical materialism in the novel of *The Fall of The Imam* is reflected by a character named Bint Allah. Bint Allah shows an early story of violence committed by a person against a mother. It stated on the dialogue below:

*Before I fell, before letters and words had time to fade, I asked them, 'Why do you always let the criminal go free and punish the victim? I am young. My mother died a virgin and so will I.' They said, 'You are the child of sin and your mother was stoned to death.' But before the letters could fade from my mind, before my*

*mind became a blank, I said, 'I am not the child of sin, I am Bint Allah. That's how they called me in the orphanage. Even if I lose my memory, I cannot forget. I cannot forget my mother's face. After I was born, she went to fight the enemy. She is a martyr. (The Fall of The Imam, 1987, p. 9)*

Bint Allah sees the seal of all the early events with the eyes of his head. From the above dialogue, that Bint Allah knows all the events that have happened since childhood. When they say '*You are the child of sin and your mother was stoned to death*' this sentence makes Bint Allah remember the events when he was young and will never be forgotten.

### **3.2 Historical Materialism**

In this form, historical materialism relates with social and material lives. In this novel *The Fall of the Imam* the high social classes reflected by wife of the Imam. The low social class is mother of Bint Allah, Bint Allah herself and the people who are weak. It is stated on the narration below.

*Her neck, a slender column of the whitest marble surrounded by five rows of the purest pearl, swayed ever so slightly. Over her breast she wore the ribbon of the Order and the Medal in the form of a brooch like a sun-disc radiating rays of light. On her fingers were rings and precious stones shining like stars. (The Fall of The Imam, 1987, p. 31)*

From narration above, wife of the Imam is people that have more material. She is rich women, because she is wife of the Imam. Imam's wife must look beautiful using much jewelry and expensive veil.

### 3.3 Class Struggle

Novel *The Fall of the Imam* tells about different social between low social and high social class. Also this novel tells about dictatorship and tyranny. Because different social, it easy to appears a conflict between low social and high social class. Class Struggle focuses on the struggle of the oppressed class against the oppressor (Hartisekar and Abadi, 2001:35).

*I have never heard anything about them,' I said, and he got into a rage and said, 'You are neither of this world, nor are you one of us, and if you do not know the Imam then you have nothing to do with this land of ours, and if you have no loyalty towards your country, then you have no place for God in your heart. Have you never heard the people when they shout, "Long live the Imam, Long live our country, Glory be to God"?' (The Fall of The Imam, 1987, p. 109)*

Dialog above tells about the people around the Imam in the novel includes into high social class consider to the people that do not know the Imam, they are nothing to their land and if the people low social not loyal to the Imam, they have no place for God. It means that they (low class) not part of the high class (people that loyal or around the Imam).

### 3.4 Revolution

The result of revolution happened after Bint Allah has experienced many events, difficulty and problems in her life. In this story Bint Allah feels free after killing the Imam, because there is no oppression again after the dead of the Imam. When Bint Allah with the Imam in the room, with all anger that she hides in her heart. Bint Allah shoots the Imam until death. The face of the Imam falls to the ground. It is stated on narration below:

*I live in the House of Joy, but in my heart there is sadness. What is day for you is night for me, and what is happiness for you is sadness for me. Pleasure for you is pain to me, and victory for you means defeat to me. Your Paradise is my hell and your honour is my shame, whereas my shame is to you an honour. (The Fall of The Imam, 1987, p. 155)*

#### 4. CONCLUSION

The researcher concludes based on Marxist Approach by Karl Marx, there are four principles Marxist in *The Fall of the Imam* novel (1987) by Nawal El Saadawi as follows:

Firstly, dialectical materialism in the novel of *The Fall of the Imam* is reflected by a character named Bint Allah. Bint Allah shows an early story of violence committed by a person against a mother. She gives all the information what has been experienced, from child until adult. She explains to us the oppression of the Imam and the people around him.

Secondly, historical materialism relates with material lives. In this novel *The Fall of the Imam* the high social classes reflected by wife of the Imam and the Imam also the people that around the Imam. Wife of the Imam is people that have more material. She is rich women. Imam's wife must look beautiful using much jewelry and using veil expensive.

Third is class struggle; this happened when Bint Allah with the Imam, Bint Allah is ordered to kneel at feet of the Imam, but Bint Allah do not want to do it. Bint Allah tells to the Imam that she never kneels the feet anyone. Bint Allah rebels to kiss the feet of the Imam.

Fourth is revolution. The result of revolution is happened after Bint Allah has experienced many events, difficulty and problems in her life. In this story Bint

Allah feels free after killing the Imam, there are no oppression again after the dead of the Imam.

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